

FREEDOM LEGAL

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH

SCOTT MAGEE, on behalf of)	
himself and other persons similarly situated)	CIVIL ACTION NO.
)	
<i>Plaintiffs,</i>)	
v.)	JUDGE
)	
JOHN C. HEATH ATTORNEY AT LAW,)	
PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY)	MAG. JUDGE
COMPANY d/b/a LEXINGTON LAW,)	
a Utah professional limited liability company)	
)	
<i>Defendant.</i>)	

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Plaintiff Scott Magee brings this Class Action Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial against Defendant John C. Heath Attorney At Law d/b/a Lexington Law ("Lexington Law") to stop its practice of making unwanted and unsolicited text message calls to the cellular telephones of consumers nationwide and to obtain redress for all persons injured by its conduct. Plaintiff alleges as follows upon personal knowledge as to himself and his own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by his attorneys.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Defendant Lexington Law is a law firm offering credit repair services.

2. In order to obtain more clients, Lexington Law sent text message advertisements to consumers' cellular telephones.

3. Lexington Law did not obtain prior express consent from such consumers to make such text message calls and, therefore violated the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 ("TCPA").

4. The TCPA was enacted to protect consumers from unsolicited and unwanted calls, exactly like those alleged in this case. Lexington Law made these text message calls despite the fact that neither Plaintiff nor the other members of a putative Class of consumers (defined below) provided Lexington Law with their prior express consent to receive such text messages.

5. By sending spam text messages, Lexington Law has violated the privacy and statutory rights of Plaintiff and the Class and caused them harm, not only by subjecting them to the aggravation that necessarily accompanies the receipt of unsolicited spam text messages, but also because consumers frequently have to pay their wireless providers for the receipt of such unsolicited text message calls.

6. As a result, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the putative Class, seeks an injunction requiring Lexington Law to cease all unlawful text messaging activities alleged in this Complaint, and an award of statutory damages to Plaintiff and the Class for each such violation, together with costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

PARTIES

7. Plaintiff is a natural person and citizen of the state of Louisiana.

8. Defendant Lexington Law is a Utah-based, for-profit corporation. Lexington Law conducts business throughout Utah and the United States.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

9. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 for Plaintiff's claims arising under the federal Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA), 47 U.S.C. § 227, *et seq.*

10. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 (b)-(c) and 1441(a) because Lexington Law resides in this District.

COMMON FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

11. In an effort to solicit more clients, Defendant Lexington Law sent (or directed to be sent on its behalf) unsolicited text messages, without consent, to cellular telephones while using automatic telephone dialing equipment having the capacity to store and dial telephone numbers, *en masse*. As a result, Defendant has repeatedly violated the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 (the "TCPA").

12. Given the relatively low cost associated with sending bulk text messages, many marketers have turned to disseminating advertisements or promotions through mass text message campaigns.

13. Seeking to market its services to consumers throughout the United States and, in turn, grow its customer base, Lexington Law engaged in this especially invasive form of advertising.

14. Lexington Law sent unauthorized text messages to the phones of thousands of consumers across the country.

15. The nature of the text messages sent by Lexington Law indicates that it used an automatic telephone dialing system ("ATDS"). Specifically, the hardware and software used by Lexington Law has the capacity to store, produce, and dial random and sequential numbers,

and/or receive and store lists of telephone numbers, and to dial such numbers, *en masse*, in an automated fashion without human intervention. Lexington Law's automated dialing equipment includes features substantially similar to a predictive dialer, inasmuch as it is capable of making numerous text message calls simultaneously (ail without human intervention).

16. In fact, the promotional text message calls alleged herein were exclusively made and initiated by Lexington Law and not by any consumer. Lexington Law made, or had made on its behalf, the same (or substantially the same) text message calls *en masse* to thousands of cellular telephone numbers.

17. While Lexington Law sent these unauthorized text messages to consumers to market its loan services, it never obtained recipients' consent to do so.

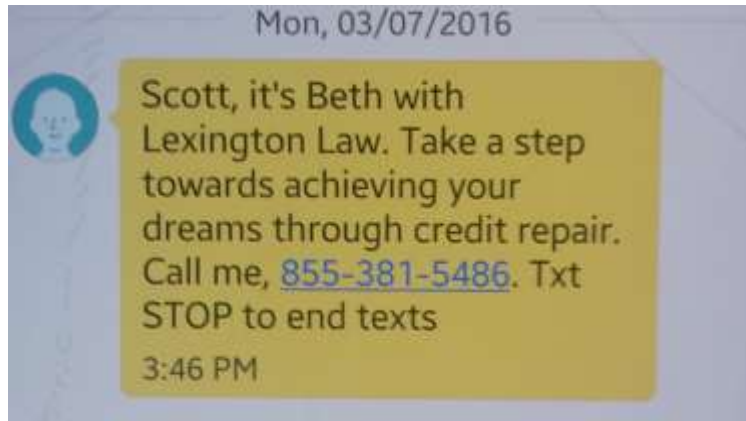
18. Through its conduct, Lexington Law has caused consumers actual harm by sending unauthorized text message calls at issue. Plaintiff and members of the Class were not only subjected to the aggregation that necessarily accompanies the receipt of unauthorized text messages, but also because consumers frequently have to pay their cell phone service providers for the receipt of such unauthorized text messages.

19. Moreover, Plaintiff and members of the Class suffered injuries in the form of invasion of privacy and violations of their statutory rights, the monies paid to receive Lexington Law's unsolicited text messages, the diminished value and utility of their telephone equipment and telephone subscription service (i.e. the value of such equipment and services is higher when unencumbered by repeated and harassing text messages), the amount of time lost answering and fielding unwanted telemarketing text messages, the wear and tear on their telephone equipment, the loss of battery (which becomes diminished with each incoming phone call), the loss of

battery life (which has a finite number of charging cycles), and electricity costs required to recharge their cellular phones.

FACTS SPECIFIC TO PLAINTIFF MAGEE

20. Lexington Law sent at least eight text messages from telephone number 31044 to Plaintiff's telephone number, such as:



21. Plaintiff was not a customer nor did he have any prior relationship with Lexington Law. Plaintiff did not provide his cellular telephone number to Defendant prior to receiving the text message. As such, Plaintiff did not provide any form of prior express consent to receive text messages from Defendant.

22. Defendant's intrusive text messages adversely affected Plaintiff's right to privacy.

23. Defendant was and is aware that the above-described text message calls were being made on a widespread basis, and that the text message calls were being made to consumers who had not consented to receive them.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

24. **Class Definition:** Plaintiff Magee brings this action on behalf of himself and a class defined as follows:

Class: All individuals in the United States whose wireless telephone number Lexington Law, or someone on Lexington Law's behalf, called using an automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice without prior express written consent of the called party.

Excluded from the Class are: (1) any Judge or Magistrate presiding over this action and members of their families; (2) Defendant, Defendant's subsidiaries, parents, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which the Defendant or its parents have a controlling interest and its current or former employees, officers and directors; (3) persons who properly execute and file a timely request for exclusion from the Class; (4) persons whose claims in this matter have been finally adjudicated on the merits or otherwise released; (5) Plaintiff's counsel and Defendant's counsel; and (6) the legal representatives, successors, and assigns of any such excluded persons.

25. **Numerosity:** The exact number of Class members is unknown and not available to Plaintiff at this time, but it is clear that individual joinder is impracticable. On information and belief, Defendant has sent promotional text messages to thousands of consumers who fall into the definition of the Class. Class members can be identified through Defendant's records.

26. **Commonality and Predominance:** There are many questions of law and fact common to the claims of Plaintiff and the putative Class, and those questions predominate over any questions that may affect individual members of the Class. Common questions for the Class include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

The Class:

- (a) Whether Defendant's conduct violated the TCPA;
- (b) Whether Defendant sent text messages using an automatic telephone dialing system ("ATDS"), as contemplated by the TCPA;

- (c) Whether Defendant systematically sent promotional text messages to persons who did not previously provide it with prior express consent to receive such text message calls; and
- (d) Whether Plaintiff and the members of the Class are entitled to treble damages based on the willfulness of Defendant's conduct.

27. **Typicality:** Plaintiffs claims are typical of the claims of other members of the Class in that Plaintiff and the Class members sustained damages arising out of Defendant's uniform wrongful conduct and unsolicited text message calls.

28. **Adequate Representation:** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class, and has retained counsel competent and experienced in complex litigation and class actions. Plaintiff's claims are representative of the claims of the other members of the Class. That is, Plaintiff and the Class members sustained damages as a result of Defendant's conduct and received substantially the same text messages. Plaintiff also has no interests antagonistic to those of the Class, and Defendant has no defenses unique to Plaintiff. Plaintiff and his counsel are committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the members of the Class, and have the financial resources to do so. Neither Plaintiff nor his counsel has any interest adverse to the Class.

29. **Appropriateness:** This class action is also appropriate for certification because Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class as a whole, thereby requiring the Court's imposition of uniform relief to ensure compatible standards of conduct toward the members of the Class and making final class-wide injunctive relief appropriate. Defendant's practices apply to and affect the members of the Class uniformly, and Plaintiff's challenge of those practices hinges on Defendant's conduct with respect to the Class as

a whole, not on facts or law applicable only to Plaintiff. Additionally, the damages suffered by individual members of the Class will likely be small relative to the burden and expense of individual prosecution of the complex litigation necessitated by Defendant's actions. Thus, it would be virtually impossible for the members of the Class to obtain effective relief from Defendant's misconduct on an individual basis. A class action provides the benefits of single adjudication, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court. Economies of time, effort, and expense will be fostered and uniformity of decisions will be ensured.

30. Plaintiff reserves the right to revise the foregoing "Class Allegations" and "Class Definition" based on facts learned through additional investigation and in discovery.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227, *et seq.* – Telephone Consumer Protection Act) (on behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

31. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

32. In an effort to obtain clients, Lexington Law made unsolicited and unwanted text message calls to Plaintiff and the Class's cellular telephones without their prior express consent.

33. Lexington Law sent the promotional text messages to Plaintiff and the Class's cellular telephone numbers using equipment that had the capacity to store or produce telephone numbers to be called using a random or sequential number generator, and/or receive and store lists of phone numbers, and to dial such numbers *en masse*.

34. Lexington Law utilized equipment that sent the promotional text messages to Plaintiff and other members of the putative Class simultaneously and without human intervention.

35. By sending the promotional text messages to Plaintiffs and members of the Class's cellular telephones without prior express consent, and by utilizing an ATDS, Lexington Law violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(I)(A)(iii).

36. As a result of Lexington Law's unlawful conduct, Plaintiff and the members of the putative Class suffered actual damages and have also had their rights to privacy adversely impacted. Plaintiff and the Class are therefore entitled to, among other things, a minimum of \$500 in statutory damages for each such violation under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).

37. Because Lexington Law's misconduct was willful and knowing, the Court should, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3), treble the amount of statutory damages recoverable by the Plaintiff and the other members of the putative Class.

38. Additionally, as a result of Lexington Law's unlawful conduct, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class are entitled to an injunction under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A) to ensure that Lexington Law's violations of the TCPA do not continue into the future.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Scott Magee, individually and on behalf of the Class, prays for the following relief:

(a) An order certifying this case as a class action under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) & (b)(3), appointing Plaintiff Scott Magee as Class Representative and his attorneys as Class Counsel;

(b) Enter a judgment in favor of Plaintiff and the proposed class for all damages available under the TCPA, including \$500.00 per violation and up to \$1,500.00 per violation if Defendant willfully violated the TCPA;

(c) An order declaring that Defendant's actions, as set out above, violate the TCPA

- (d) A declaratory judgment that Defendant's telephone calling equipment constitutes an automated telephone dialing system under the TCPA;
- (e) An order requiring Defendant to disgorge any ill-gotten funds acquired as a result of its unlawful telephone calling practices;
- (f) An injunction requiring Defendant to cease all unsolicited text message activities, and otherwise protecting the interests of the Classes;
- (g) Award Plaintiff and the class all expenses of this action, and requiring Defendant to pay the costs and expenses of class notice and claims administration; and
- (h) Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands trial by jury on all issues for which a jury trial is allowed.

Respectfully submitted:

FREEDOM LEGAL

/s/ Jonathan L. Jaussi

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/s/ William H. Beaumont

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